



Making Tracks

Editor: Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*
Layout: Denise Lehmann

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

7

Wildflower Walk

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(All Ages) Come take a walk through some of the natural areas of Forest Park and see some summer wildflowers in bloom. You’ll see several varieties such as butterfly weed, yarrow, coneflower, milkweed, prairie rose and more. Learn the benefits of these native species and how they have adapted to withstand the summer heat without watering. Meet at the Forest Park Visitor Center.
Naturalist: Jamaica Duane (Reservations begin June 23.)





Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

PRSR STD.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
JEFFERSON CITY MO
PERMIT 274



Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

July 2006 Volume 06, Number 07



Forest Park Holds Many Opportunities for Students, Teachers and Nature Lovers!

by Colleen Scott, Naturalist Programs Supervisor

You’ve probably heard, and perhaps witnessed all of the improvements and renovations at Forest Park in Saint Louis. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is playing a part in nurturing its growth. The MDC office located in the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center, offers several public and school programs throughout the year. Another organization benefitting the park is Forest Park Forever a private, nonprofit organization , whose mission is to make Forest Park a premier national urban park. Forest Park Forever accommodates MDC in facilitating programs by offering the use of classrooms for programs. However, we are happy we don’t use the space or classrooms that often because Forest Park itself is the real classroom!

An excellent example of this new approach is the fish hatchery lakes. Although the nearby Hatchery Building is no longer operating as a functional fish hatchery, MDC stocks four lakes for youth-only educational programs. Through reservations, organized youth groups learn about such things as water quality, aquatic life and fishing. For adult anglers who don’t need a reservation, there’s Jefferson Lake, which we renovated several years ago to include an aeration system and a fishing platform.

We don’t stop there! With the MDC Naturalist, Conservation Education Consultant, Outdoor Skills Specialist and Public Service Assistant at Forest Park, MDC has all bases covered. MDC staff work to promote and present natural history, outdoor skills and conservation-related programs and hikes to the general public, school groups, teachers and area organizations.

To best serve our constituents, MDC works with other agencies also. One of the best examples is the *Voyage of Learning Teacher’s Academy*, which takes place July 19 – 28. Forest Park Forever and numerous cultural institutions in the area, such as the Saint Louis Art Museum and the Saint Louis Science Center, partner to present an eight-day experiential education workshop for teachers. Not only can teachers build their outdoor education skills, they can receive college credit as well.

Forest Park’s existing structures, both natural and man-made, are truly awe-inspiring. Its ongoing succession, now in the early stages, is something we all look forward to. Of course there will be disruptions, but as with any worthwhile endeavor, whether natural or cultural, there are always periods of growth and it will be well worth the wait!

For more information on the variety of educational programs offered by the MDC Educational staff, call (314) 877-1309.



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

1 Family Fishing
Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Learn the basics for fishing for different species such as pan fish, bass and catfish. Bring a rod and reel and any bait you want to use. A valid Missouri fishing license is required. *Volunteer Naturalist: Mark Hunstein* (Reservations begin June 16.)

8 Let’s Go Exploring
Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-5) In the spirit of Dora, preschoolers will learn to follow a basic map to find a destination. *Volunteer Naturalist: Mary Cunningham* (Reservations begin June 23.)

14 Introduction to Compass
Friday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 12 & up) Do you want to learn how to use a compass? The, this is the program for you! After learning some of the basics, we will go outside and play games to strengthen your new skills. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker* (Reservations begin June 30.)

15 Fish in the Summer
Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
(All Ages) When we get hot in the summer, we sit inside where there is air-conditioning, but what do the fish do? We will explore this and then try to catch some fish before it gets too hot! A valid Missouri fishing license is required. *Volunteer Naturalist: Ryan Diener* (Reservations begin June 30.)

17 Handprint Art
Monday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3-4) Let’s get into some hands-on creative fun! Create animals using your own fingers and meet some

animals up close. *Volunteer Naturalist: Margaret Sutter McGregor* (Reservations begin July 3.)

18 Hooo Ate This?
Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7 & up) Discover what is on the menu at Big Owl’s Diner. Examine owl pellets and find out who is lower on the food chain. *Volunteer Naturalist: Angel Stahr* (Reservations begin July 3).

19 Painting the Birds
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & Noon – 1:30 p.m.
(Ages 8 & up) Join us to discover how to sketch and paint a bird. Increase your observation skills and learn about the bird’s habitat while you paint in watercolors. This program will help you capture your subjects and their habitats realistically. *Volunteer Naturalist: Carol Price* (Reservations begin July 5.)

22 Herons & Egrets @ Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area
Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Adults) Join us for a 2.5-mile hike to view the herons and egrets feeding in the MTC marsh. See some of the showiest members of all wading birds. Learn to identify these birds from a distance through spotting scopes provide by MDC. *Volunteer Naturalist: Marvin Staloch* (Reservations begin July 7.)

25 Down to That Crawdad Hole
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Crawdads, crayfish, crawfish, mudbugs — whatever you call these little lobster cousins — they are definitely cool! Learn more about crawdads and see them up close in this hands on program. We will start indoors

and then, weather permitting, we will visit a stream to see if we can catch a few of these critters. *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Thiele* (Reservations begin July 11.)

26 Stream Study
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Are you looking for a unique way to beat the summer heat? Help us search for animal life in a stream and learn how these animals can predict the stream’s health. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker* (Reservations begin July 12.)

26 Pictures in the Sun
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 8 & up) Participants will choose pressed flowers to make pictures. These flowers will be placed on special photographic paper and exposed to the sun. *Volunteer Naturalist: Gladys Kullman* (Reservations begin July 12.)

27 Crawdads
Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3-5) Crawdads, crayfish, crawfish, mudbugs — whatever you call these little lobster cousins — they are definitely cool! Learn more about crawdads and see them up close in this hands-on program. We will start indoors then, weather permitting, we will visit a stream to see if we can catch a few of these critters. *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Thiele* (Reservations begin July 13.)

28 Night Insects
Friday 8 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Summer nights are alive with insect activity! Join us as we explore the nocturnal insects of Busch. Please do not wear insect repellent, as it can be harmful to our main attraction. No swatting allowed, either! *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker* (Reservations begin July 14.)

Making Tracks
St. Louis Region Newsletter

Natural Events in July

Here’s just a few of the natural happenings in the great Missouri outdoors! What other natural events have *you* seen?

Blackberries are ripening · Black-eyed Susans bloom · Texas horned lizards bask in open areas on sunny, hot mornings in southwestern corner of Missouri · Birds and mammals feast on wild fruits · Bird song has subsided as birds are busy raising young · Young raccoons leave dens · During hot days woodchucks go in dens to avoid heat · Dragonflies lay eggs on ponds and streams · Fall webworms begin web building · Black rat snakes lay eggs until the end of month · Cicada-killer wasps prey on dog-day cicadas · Great blue herons begin fledging Rattlesnakes hunt mostly at night · Watch for fledgling birds; do not disturb these young animals · Long-tailed weasels breed through August · Katydids sing · Mayapple fruits ripen and fall to the ground · Wild black cherries ripen · Northern fence lizard eggs begin hatching Squirrels bear summer litters



2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are **Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

14 Toddling into Nature: Salamander Tales
Friday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a salamander? Well, join us for some slimy, slippery fun as we learn about salamanders! We will watch a live feeding, make some salamander tails to wear, and go on a salamander exploration. Make sure you wear clothes you don’t mind getting muddy!
Naturalist: Angela Pierce (Reservations begin June 30.)

15 Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt
Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Combine your love of the outdoors with the fun of taking pictures and join us on a scavenger hunt!

We will explore forest, field and stream while we seek specific images of nature. Please dress for the outdoors, and do not forget your digital camera!
Volunteer Naturalist: Sally Roberts (Reservations begin June 30.)

25 Just Ducky
Tuesday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
(Ages 16 & Up) Make a duck decoy of cork, which may be used in the water or for display. Participants will be provided with all materials and tools. Only painting will remain to be completed at home. *Volunteer Naturalist: John Schroeder* (Reservations begin July 11.)

25 Growing Up in a Pond
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-10) Ponds are full of life! Get a chance to

explore the life at the Rockwoods pond. We will learn about pond animal life cycles and will get hands-on experience sampling the pond for aquatic animals. Make sure you wear clothes and shoes you don’t mind getting muddy!
Naturalist: Angela Pierce (Reservations begin July 11.)

27 Nature’s Fireworks
Thursday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(All Ages) At dusk on warm summer nights, nature presents one of its most beautiful light shows. Learn about this fascinating beetle: the firefly. We will build a bug box to capture and release some of these twinkling creatures.
Naturalist: Angela Pierce (Reservations begin July 13.)

375 Highway 185 South, Sullivan, MO 63080
For reservations call (573) 468-3335 ext 227.

26 & 28 Project WET, Project WILD, and Learning Tree Certification
Wednesday & Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Teachers, Homeschool Educators, Scout or 4-H Leaders)
Total fee: \$50 Registration deadline by July 7th (max. 30). Participants may sign up for all three focuses or select a specific Project workshop. Each Project focuses on teaching children to be stewards

of the land; improving their understanding of conservation and the use of our natural resources; teaches how, not what, to think; provides interdisciplinary, hands-on activities with inexpensive materials; and includes thematic teaching, cooperative learning and across-the-curriculum activities.
Project WILD: \$20 Emphasizing wildlife; topics on habitats, wildlife, history, communications, current events. Contains aquatic extensions, aquatic wildlife and ecosystems.
Project Learning Tree (PLT): \$15 Uses the forest as a “window on the world” to increase students’ under-

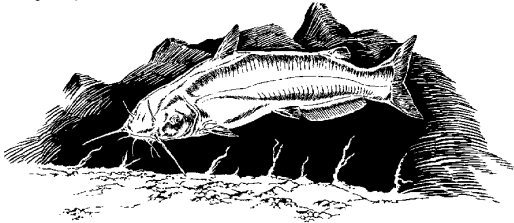
standing of our complex environment; topics on forestry, wildlife, soil, air and water.
Project WET: \$15 Topics on water education, physical and chemical characteristics; Earth systems; an; how water resources exist within social and cultural constructs involves students in real world water resource issues. At the end of the workshop, participants will receive certificates of completion, correlation to the Show-Me Standards booklets, and four activity books. Contact: Jennifer Dierking (573) 468-3335 ext. 244.

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are **Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

11 Beginning Air Rifles
Tuesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 10 & up) Join us to learn how to safely shoot air rifles. We will cover the 10 Commandments of Firearms Safety and basic shooting fundamentals. Then you will have the opportunity to practice shooting at a variety of targets. All equipment will be provided. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane* (Reservations begin June 27.)

15 Soap Making
Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon.
(Adults) Making soap is fun and educational. Discover how early Missourians made soap from burnt wood and dead animals. Don’t worry if you’re squeamish. We’ll use modern-day ingredients to make soap you can take home. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane* (Reservations begin July 1.)

15 Hook, Line and Sinker!
Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 6-12) Have a potential angler on your hands? We can offer your youngster the basics of fishing. Kids watch how to do it. Practice how to do it. Then, just do it. All fish caught are released to catch another day. Unless there’s thunder and lightening, we’ll be at Bellefontaine CA. Young ones will be hooked and ready for more!
Volunteer Naturalist: G.T. Templeton (Reservations begin July 1.)



17 Insect Collection
Monday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Families) Summer is a great time to observe and enjoy the many different insects buzzing and crawling around. After a brief session on what, where and how to collect, we’ll head outside to collect and identify insects. Please bring hats, water, sunscreen and insect repellent. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane* (Reservations begin July 1.)

17 Insect Investigators
Monday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Do you have a budding entomologist on your hands? Or, just a little one filled with curiosity? Either way, this is a great program for tots. Participants discover insects through mimicry, song and hands-on activity. Whatever we find will be released before going home. This program is both indoors and out, so please bring hats, water, sunscreen and insect repellent. *Naturalist Program Supervisor: Colleen Scott* (Reservations begin July 1.)

21 Beginning Archery
Friday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 10 & up) Whether you are a beginner or experienced at archery, join us to find out how to safely use a bow and arrow. Get the fundamentals of archery and then practice your skill in an open field with stationary targets. All equipment will be provided. Please do not bring your personal equipment. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane* (Reservations begin July 7.)

26 Crafty As Can Be!
Wednesday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) “Look at me! I’m as crafty as can be!” Your preschooler will shout this during our program full of hiking, crafting and fun. Participants collect natural items along the River’s Edge Trail, then create one-of-a-kind art pieces. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid* (Reservations begin July 12.)

27 Breakfast With the Birds
Thursday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 5 & up) Beat the heat and join us for a continental breakfast as we watch birds from the comfort of the Visitor Center. Then, take a bird-watching stroll on the Confluence Trail, which is along the levee and begins at the Visitor Center. Binoculars and field guides recommended. *Volunteer Naturalist: Colleen Crank* (Reservations begin July 13.)

29 Wild Edibles
Saturday 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Families) Have you ever wondered which plants are edible in the wild? We will go beyond which plants you can eat for survival and explore fruits, nuts and plants to use in amazing pies, jellies, butters and salads. Come and enjoy tastes of each recipe and head home with a wild edible recipe book for your own kitchen. We will also check out where these delicious plants are growing and identify them in the wild. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid* (Reservations begin July 15.)

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

9 Second Sunday Celebration: Celebrate Summer! (Because there's always something to celebrate at Powder Valley!)

Sunday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
(All Ages) Celebrate summer in stories and songs! Celebrate forests and prairies and bogs! Celebrate rivers and lakes and ponds! Celebrate bluebirds, snakes, catfish and frogs! Whether you hike the trails or rest in the shade, you'll be glad the trip to Powder Valley you've made! Volunteer Naturalists (No reservations required.)

11 What's Bugging You?

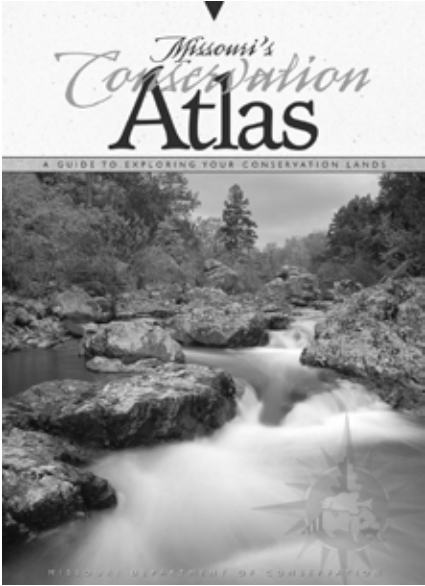
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-12) So, what's so special about insects and other arthropods? They're just BUGS, right? WRONG! Insects are the largest group of animal life on earth. They also play an important role in the balance of nature. So let's examine them as well as our attitudes toward them. We'll do some classroom activities and learn collecting techniques outside. Staff Naturalist: David Bradford (Reservations begin June 26.)

17 Fish Printing at Henges

Monday 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Learn about some common Missouri fish, practice casting, and try your hand at the Japanese art form of Gyotaku, or "fish print." Paper for printing will be provided, but if you'd like, bring a t-shirt to print and create a unique piece of clothing! The program will be held at Henges Range and Conservation Education Center, located at Highway 44 and Beaumont-Antire Road. Staff Naturalist: Amy Anderson (Reservations begin June 29.)

Nature Shop Special

July and August
20% off



As a Missouri citizen, you share in the ownership of nearly 1,000 conservation areas. To help you discover and enjoy them, the Missouri Department of Conservation has published a new atlas. Improving upon our popular former edition, we have included color topographical county maps grouped under eight regions. The easy-to-read maps feature more than 900 areas owned, managed or leased by MDC. Adjacent to each is a separate listing of its areas, accompanied by driving directions, recreational opportunities and facilities. Additionally, areas with shooting ranges and disabled-accessible facilities are highlighted on two separate pages in back. Spiral binding lets the book lie flat on your vehicle seat. 240 pages.

\$15.20 after discount

20 ABC Nature Journals

Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) Can you find something that begins with A? Join us as we discover nature's alphabet by creating our own ABC nature journals. We will take an outside exploration in search of items to enter into our journals. Staff Naturalist: Jada Barhorst (Reservations begin July 6.)

HOMESCHOOL

26 Behavior Biologists

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Come and get the first look at the brand new '06-'07 school year program! We will learn how and why research biologists do their jobs by conducting an animal behavior study. Bring your "thinking caps," because this will be a challenging event. Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy (Reservations begin July 12.)

29 Michelle Dorenkamp Nature Artist

Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(All Ages) Visit with nature artist Michelle Dorenkamp while she displays and paints prints of native animals. Nature Artist: Michelle Dorenkamp (No reservations required.)



A Word From the Powder Valley Nature Center Manager...

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that over the last couple of years a lot of behind-the-scenes work has been happening to bring a new look to Powder Valley. The nature center will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in October. The bad news is, there won't be any parties. How can we let such an important milestone pass? Well, we're not skipping it completely, just putting it off for a bit!

Over the next several months you'll notice various phases of construction as we change things around and prepare to get new exhibits. Some of the favorites will stay, like the giant oak tree, the beehive, the aquarium and the wildlife viewing area. We'll be getting a new and improved Discovery Room for kids and kids at heart. The library will be moved to a more quiet area of the building. The "Missouri Monarch" deer will be "brought to life" in a new exhibit in the lobby and we'll have an indoor tree house to explore! The keelboat which has served us so well over the past three years will set sail to a new home to make room for new things to see. We're leaving some space for "traveling" exhibits that will stay in place for up to a year then change out to something else so we'll have something new more often.

Because of all the work, the exhibits will be closed all or in part for much of the late summer and fall, maybe even into winter. We want everything to be perfect when we invite you out for an anniversary bash, so that's why we're putting off the parties. Please be patient with our bad news, because that means there will be a lot of work going on to make a new and different Powder Valley. Then we can enjoy the good news of it all being finished, and I promise, we'll have a great big party!

Tamie Yegge
Nature Center Manager

July Nature Films

- July 1, 2 & 4
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Nature Connection — Tide Pools and Cattail Country
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Rivers & Streams II
Big Rivers
Downstream
Jewels of the Ozarks
Stream Sense
- July 8 & 9
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bear Cubs, Baby Ducks and Kooky Kookaburras
See How They Grow : Forest Animals
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Summer Wildflowers of the Eastern Forests
Savage Garden with Leslie Nielsen
Creating an Urban Oasis
Forests for the Future
- July 22 & 23
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Mammal
How Animals Move
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Missouri Outdoor TV Story Collections:
Volume 11: Wildlife (Disc 16)
Furbearers of Missouri
- July 29 & 30
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Life
Animals of the Night
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Missouri Outdoor TV Story Collections:
DVD Set Wildlife (Disc 17)
Life Science Nature Series: Woodland Wildlife
Volume 1 No. 8
Life Science Nature Series: Prairie Wildlife
Volume 1 No. 6
Season of the Bat
- Shown in the Auditorium - Free of Charge - Groups Welcome!
Children's films: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
All Ages films: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Films are subject to change. Times are approximate.
No reservations necessary.

July Hallway Exhibit Artist



Kim William Gordon

Kim William Gordon specializes in large format (4" x 5" and 8" x 10" negatives) black and white photography, 3D imagery and historical imagery. Kim, originally from southern Illinois, has developed his style around the principle of "natural fractals," or an interest in capturing the patterns inherent in nature. On display in July will be his works focusing on the wide variety of Missouri outdoor landscapes, as well as a special exhibit composed of stereoscopic photography of Missouri's natural environment. Additional information can be found at www.KimWilliamGordon.com.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Ginny Burmeister.....	2,000 hours	Priscilla Jenkins.....	1,000 hours
Christine Jeep.....	500 hours	Ron Pohle.....	2,000 hours